

ToWhom It May Concern:

The American airways are licensed to you for fair and impartial broadcasting. Electioneering on your part can put ALL your station licenses in jeopardy and is illegal and unconscionable. Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation. If you air the anti-Kerry program you must also air the pro Kerry program or air neither of the two.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy. Instead of something produced at "News Central" far away, it's more important that we see real people from our own communities and more substantive news about issues that matter.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. Thank you.